

Museum explorers

Colour and shape

The Open Futures family trails are funded by

Welcome

This trail guides you on a fascinating journey of exploration and discovery around the Museum. On the way you'll track down some amazing treasures and experience tales of human history from around the world. You'll also need to search, look, pose and draw.

Whichever way you go, and whatever you discover, enjoy yourself! If you ever feel lost, just ask a member of staff for help.

Useful information for families

- You can pick up a map in the Great Court to help you get around the Museum.
- Accessible toilets and baby changing facilities are available. You can breastfeed and bottle feed anywhere on the Museum's grounds but if you would like more privacy, the Museum has two feeding rooms. For details, ask at the Families Desk or Information Desk, or look at the map.
- You can leave fold-up pushchairs in the cloakroom free of charge.
- You can find child-friendly food at the cafés. High chairs are available.
- You can use the Ford Centre for Young Visitors to picnic with your family at weekends and during school holidays.

A trip to Africa

Travel to Africa to meet Mammy Wata. Discover wonderful colours, shapes and patterns.

Get ready to join in, work together and look closely.



1

Mammy Wata

Head to Room 25, downstairs from Room 24. Turn right and find Case 3 on the left.



Crouch down in front of the case to see the carving of Mammy Wata.



I am Mammy Wata. I live under water. I bring love and life to the world. Let's use our eyes and imagination to find shapes and colours all around us. Can you find me?



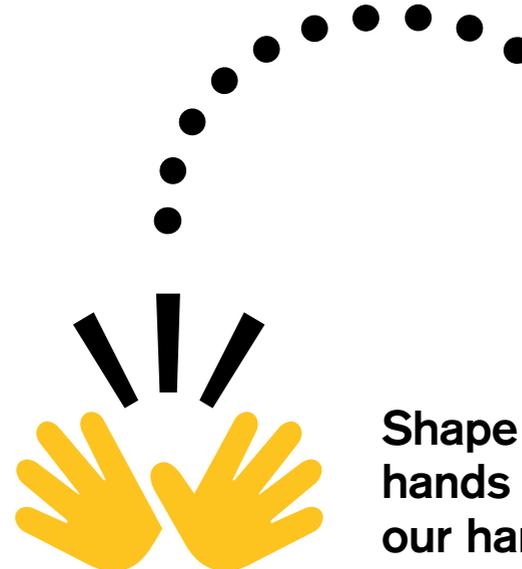
Look at me and my colourful friends

Which of these colours can you see?

-  Blue
-  Yellow
-  Red
-  White
-  Black



Are our faces round, oval or square?



Shape your hands like our hands

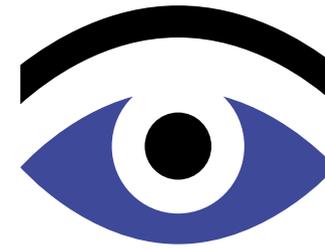
2

Slippery serpent

Walk round the corner and find the wall covered in brass plaques.

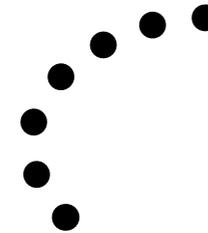
i Stand facing the palace plaque to the left of the main display. The snake is on the roof.

I am the messenger of the water god Olokun. Some say I'm an angry adder, others a protective python. Watch my brass body slither down the palace roof. Can you find me?



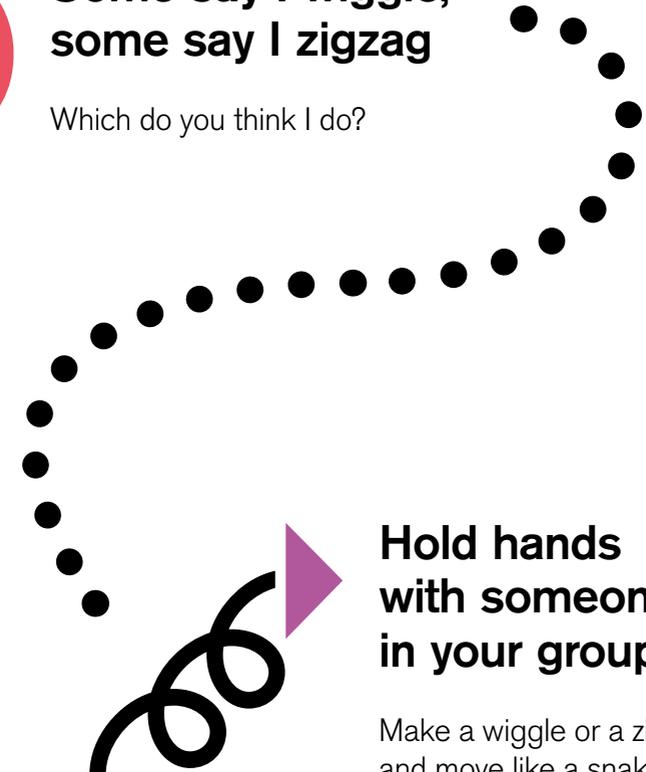
Look at my bulging eyes

What shape are the spots on my slippery body?



Some say I wiggle, some say I zigzag

Which do you think I do?



Hold hands with someone in your group

Make a wiggle or a zigzag and move like a snake.

3

Colourful cloths

Find Case 10 on the other side of the room.

i Stand in front of the case so you can see the textiles.

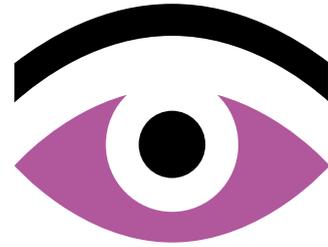
Weaving hundreds of colours over and under. Dreaming up patterns to make your eyes wonder! Can you find us?



Colours are everywhere

Find these colours. Do you have a favourite?

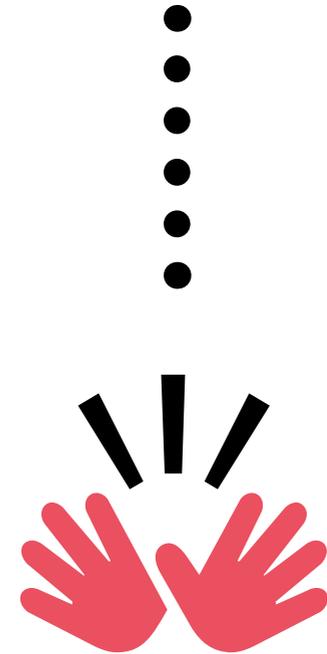
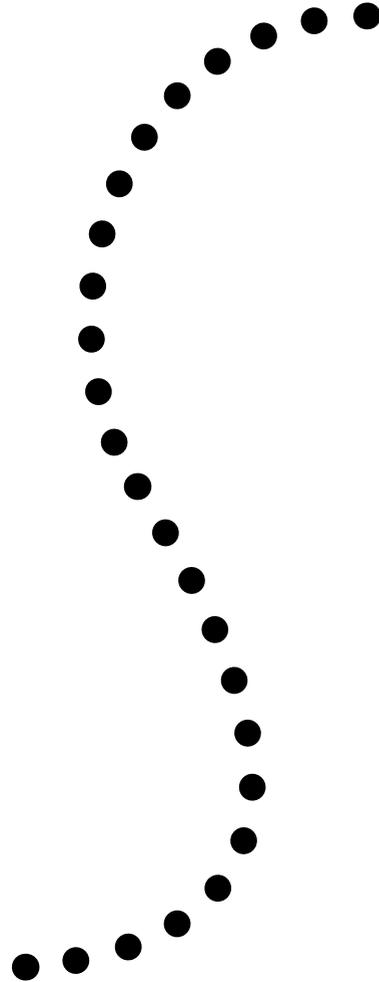
- Red
- Orange
- Yellow
- Green
- Blue
- Purple
- Brown



We are covered with patterns

Find shapes like these:

- Stripes
- Spots
- Zigzags
- Triangles
- Stars



Time to copy us

Make each of the different shapes using your fingers, hands and arms.

4

People pile-up

Walk back past the gallery entrance. Find the large wooden sculpture of animals and people on the left.



We look like a pile of people and animals, but we're not squabbling. We're holding each other up and together we are stronger! Can you find us?



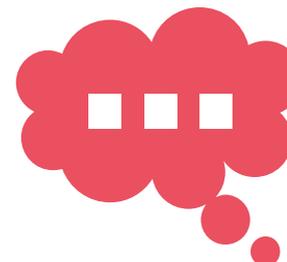
We are covered with curves

Count our dots, spots, ovals and circles.
How many can you find?



Look closely

Find:
A man with a hat
A dotty snake
A spotty leopard
A bird with a blue body



Be brave

Imagine balancing all these things on your shoulders.
How does it feel?
How would you walk?

5

A flock of knives

Walk into the next room and find Case 18 on the right.

i Move round the case to see things more easily.



We are floating in the air. Some of us look like leaves, others like beaks. Some look like horns, others like snakes. Can you find us?



What are we?

Choose some words to describe us:

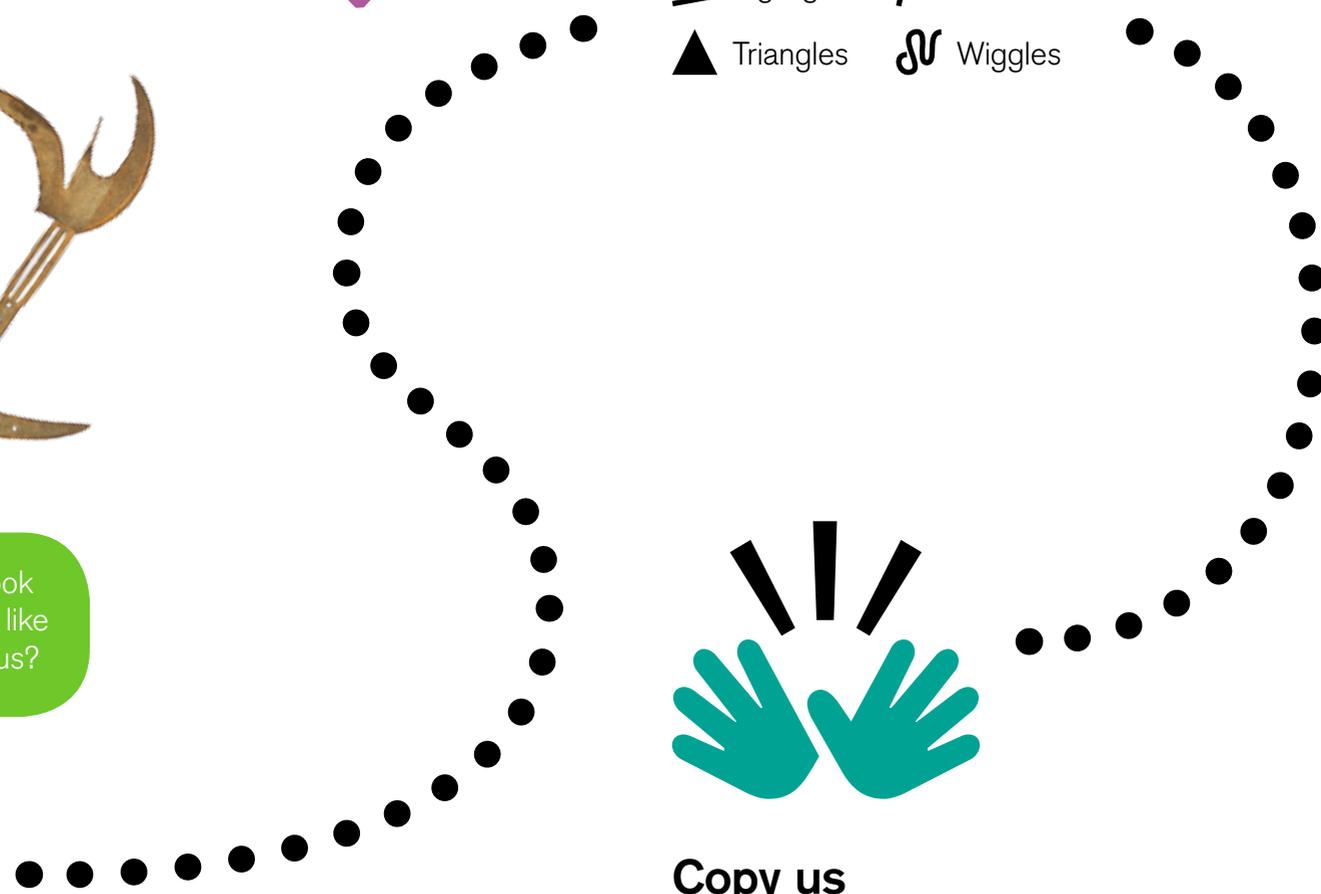
- shiny
- hard
- curvy
- pretty
- soft
- straight



Different shapes and sizes

Which ones can you find?

-  Zigzags
-  Curves
-  Triangles
-  Wiggles



Copy us

Use your finger to trace the shapes in the air. Make them as big as you can.

6

A tower of pots

Turn around and find the collection of large pots reaching up to the ceiling.



Walk round the tower to see all the different pots.

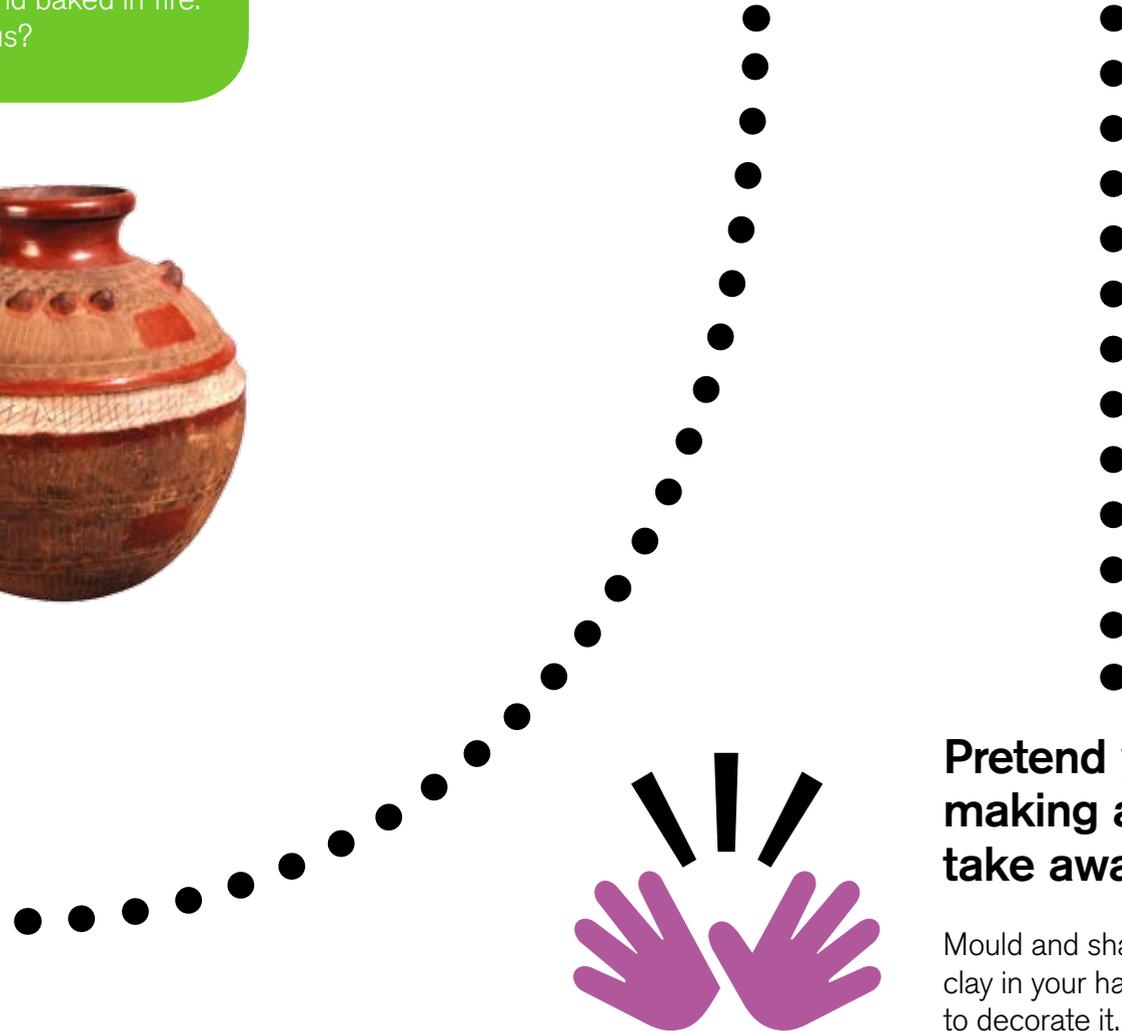
We are made from clay, rolled and coiled, smoothed and decorated and baked in fire. Can you find us?



Look at how we are decorated

Find the:

- stripes
- dots
- spikes
- nobbles
- ridge patterns



Some of us are big and some are small

How many of us can you see?

Pretend you are making a pot to take away

Mould and shape the squidgy clay in your hands. Don't forget to decorate it.



You've completed
the **Colour and
shape** trail!

Well done. You've been busy.
What fantastic colours and
shapes you've found. Mammy
Wata will be pleased!



As a reward for completing
the trail, here's a special shield.



i
Shield,
Room 25



You can find even more fantastic things to see and do in other parts of the Museum:

- **Discover** turquoise from Mexico in Room 27.
- **Uncover** gold and silver from ancient Iran in Room 52.
- **Hunt** for circles, squares and rectangles in money in Room 68.



Other things you could do when you get home:

- **Create a collage**
Collect and draw colours and shapes in the garden or park. Cut them out and stick them on a piece of paper to make a colourful collage.
- **Make some shape-matching cards**
Draw twelve shapes onto equal-sized cards and draw another set that looks exactly the same. Take it in turns to turn two cards over to find matching shapes. The person with the most matching cards wins.
- **Build a mosaic**
Cut out different coloured squares of paper. Walk around your home looking for things with the same colours. When you find one, stick a coloured square onto a piece of card and build up a colour mosaic.

**See you back at the
British Museum soon!**

